

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars.

1. In the specification

A. Specification amendment

The specification is amended, as shown in the foregoing AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION, to replace the abstract in order to correct informalities pointed out in the rejection. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added, as the changes simply correct minor informalities.

Entry of the AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION is respectfully requested in the next Office communication.

B. Objection to the specification

Reconsideration and removal of the objection to the specification, in particular the abstract, is respectfully requested, in view of the amendment to the abstract, on the basis that the objected to legal phraseology has been removed.

Accordingly, removal of this objection is respectfully requested.

2. In the claims

As shown in the foregoing AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS, the claims have been amended to more clearly point out the subject matter for which protection is sought.

Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of originally filed claims 9 and 13. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added as the amendment merely merges the subject matter of originally filed claims.

Claim 3 is amended to be consistent with amended claim 1.

Claims 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 14, and 15 are amended to depend from claim 1.

Claims 8 and 12 are left unchanged.

Claims 9 and 13 are canceled and the subject matter thereof incorporated into amended claim 1.

Entry of the AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS is respectfully requested in the next Office communication.

3. Rejection of claims 1-3, 5-12, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 3,714,790 (*Battey*) in combination with either U.S. patent no. 3,621,652 (*Demaree*) or U.S. patent no. 4,598,766 (*Michalak et al.*)

This rejection is rendered moot by the inclusion of claim 1 from which the remaining claims depend, the indicated allowable subject matter of original claim 13, along with the subject matter of intervening original claim 9.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

4. Rejection of claims 1-10, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 3,947,146 (*Schuster*) in combination with either U.S. patent no. 3,621,652 (*Demaree*) or U.S. patent no. 4,598,766 (*Michalak et al.*)

This rejection is rendered moot by the inclusion of claim 1 from which the remaining claims depend, the indicated allowable subject matter of original claim 13, along with the subject matter of intervening original claim 9.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

5. Allowable subject matter

The applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in originally filed claim 13. Accordingly, the subject matter of originally filed claim 13, and the subject matter of intervening claim 9, has been added to amended claim 1, and all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Application No.: 10/534,112  
Examiner: Bushey, Charles S.  
Art Unit: 1724

6. Conclusion

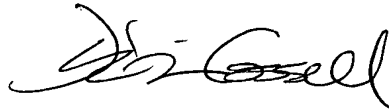
As a result of the amendment to the claims, and further in view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that every pending claim in the present application be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the applicant's attorney, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin J. Cassell", written in a cursive style.

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